

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 34, 38-43, 45, 49-54, 58, 62-67, 75-80, 84-102 are pending in the case.

Claims 5, 7, 15, 35-37, 44, 46-48, 55-57, 59-61, 68-74 and 81-83 are canceled without prejudice so that the remaining (allowed) claims may proceed to issue. Applicants reserve the right to submit these or similar claims in a divisional application.

Claims 58, 62, 67, 76, 78 have been amended to correct errors in the claims. Claim 78 was dependent on a previously-canceled claim and thus has been re-written in independent form. Claims 85 - 95 have also been re-written in independent form in light of the Examiner's indication that these claims would be allowable if rewritten.

Claims 96 – 103 are new. All of the new claims are dependent on claims that have been indicated as allowable.

In view of these amendments, all claims now pending have been allowed or are dependent on an allowed claim. Applicants thus respectfully request that a Notice of Allowance be issued in the case.

Applicants wish to apprise the Examiner of the status of the reexamination of U.S. Patent No. 5,769,880 (Reexam Control Nos. 90/005,435 and 90/005,866), which is the parent to the present application. A "Notice of Intent to Issue Ex Parte Reexamination Certificate" was mailed on March 10, 2004. Applicants note that all of the prior art made of record in the reexamination has also been made of record in connection with the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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